Shoujo Sense
嘘解きレトリック
Usotoki Rhetoric
by Miyako Ritsu
都戸利津
4
Chapter 20
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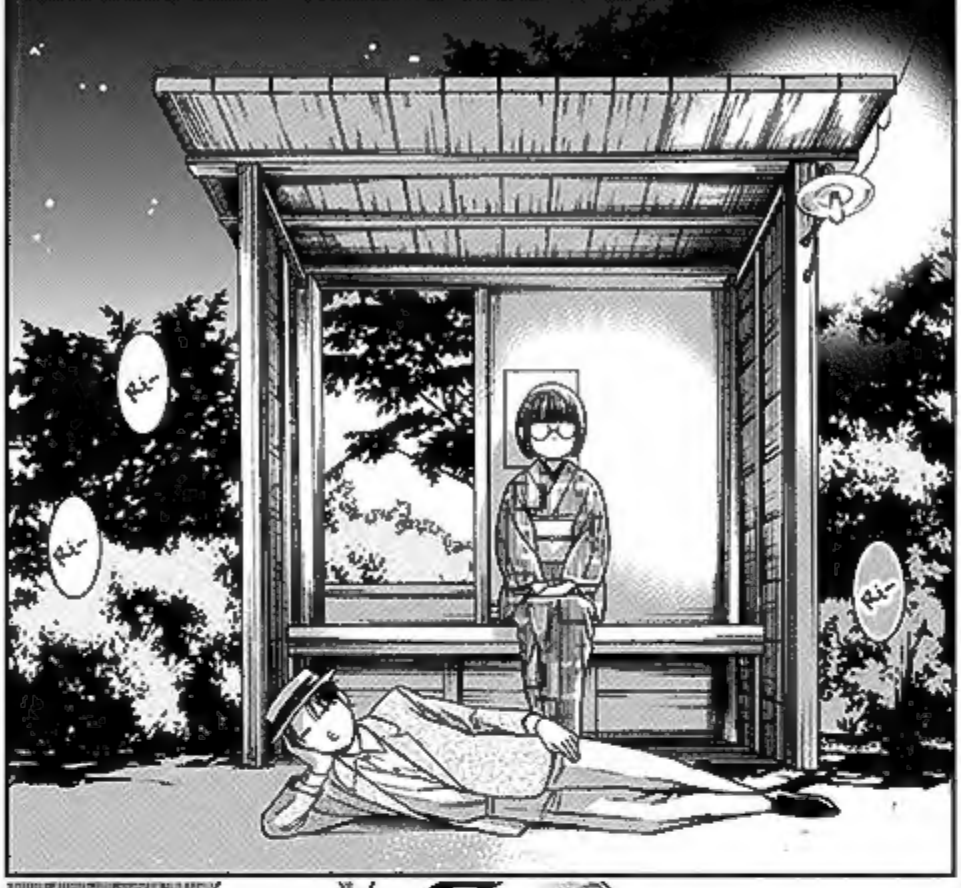
Chapter 20


Ri~
Ri~
Ri~

SFX: KSHHH
+"
+"

DETECTIVE.

IS THERE NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO?
MAYBE TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND?

I...
DON'T WANT TO LEAVE IT LIKE THIS.

Usotoki Rhetoric

IS KANJI-SAN,
REALLY JUST GONNA GO BACK LIKE THIS?
SFX: KSHH
I DON'T,
WANT TO INVESTI-GATE THIS ANYMORE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU LIKING THIS OR NOT.
HAVING THAT COUPLE AS CRIMINALS.
I DON'T LIKE,
KANJI-SAN...?
ANYONE IN THIS ISLAND COULD HAVE DONE THAT!
CHANGING THE TIME IN THE CLOCK AND SETTING UP AN ALIBI.
THEN WHY THEM?!
We don't have any other evidence
aside from Kou-san's lie and Kanji-san's story.
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR

"If there really was no one outside at that time"
"maybe what I saw was a ghost..."
A person who was walking outside
at a time where no one is supposed to be outside.
THE GHOST THAT YOU SAW.
IF THE HUSBAND, GEN-SAN, REALLY ADJUSTED THE CLOCK TO CREATE AN ALIBI,
OUTSIDE AT THE TIME OF THE CRIME BETWEEN 9:05 TO 10:00,
AND NOT 10:10 TO 11:00 LIKE HE SAYS.
KANJI-SAN SAW SOMEONE WALKING OUTSIDE AT AROUND 9:30PM.
"At exactly 9:30,"
"I saw someone walking in the shadows carrying a lamp."
IF THE CLOCK WAS ADJUSTED, THAT MEANS THAT PERSON
WAS ACTUALLY OUT WALKING AT 8:30 PM.
YES, THAT'S IF THE CLOCK AT THE SHIRAI HOUSE WAS ADJUSTED!
KANJI-SAN,
WHERE DID YOU SEE THAT PERSON WALKING?
I TOLD YOU I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.

FINDING THAT GHOST WOULD BE PROOF.
JUST BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE AN ALIBI,
DOESN'T MEAN HE CREATED ONE.
JUST BECAUSE GEN-SAN DOESN'T HAVE AN ALIBI,
DOESN'T MEAN HE WAS THE KILLER.
WHY...
"His blood streamed into the water."
I STARTED TO THINK ABOUT THIS WHEN I HEARD YOUR STORY.
He's crying?
WHY ARE YOU BLAMING THAT COUPLE?
SOMEONE ELSE COULD HAVE DONE IT.
THERE WAS CLEAR INTENT IN THIS MURDER.
I DO HAVE ONE THEORY.

B-... BUT ME COMING HERE,
AND MISSING THE FERRY BACK WAS A TOTAL COINCI-DENCE!!
BUT THAT COUPLE SEEKED YOU OUT AND ASKED YOU TO STAY, DIDN'T THEY?
THAT MEANS THEY PREPLANNED YOU AS A WITNESS TO PROVE THEIR ALIBI.
MEANS THAT THIS MURDER WAS PRE-MEDITATED.
"He'll be here as soon he finishes work."
KNOWING MINEO-SAN'S SCHE-DULE,
AND HAVING THE TIME OF DEATH COINCIDE WITH THE RISING TIDE,
"The water only reaches the area where Mineo-san's body lies when the tide is high."
Kanji-san
THEY JUST SAW YOU AND DECIDED THAT YOU WOULD BE THEIR WITNESS.
YOU SEEING THAT MAN OUTSIDE,
IS THE ONLY COINCIDENCE HERE.
I WAS STILL CONSIDERING SOME INCON-SISTENCIES,
doesn't want to believe that the kind couple are actually criminals.
Then the de-tective went to the Shirai house to check their clock,
and formed his hypothesis using my powers.
"Listen carefully."

BUT THAT ONE COINCIDENCE COULD BE OUR BREAK-THROUGH.
SO PLEASE TELL US WHERE YOU SAW THAT PERSON.
...NO.
KANJI-SAN...!
BE-CAUSE ...
IF IWAI-KUN'S THEORY TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE,
IT MEANS THAT MINEO-SAN DIED
BECAUSE OF ME...

IF I DIDN'T GO TO THE SHIRAI HOUSE...
IF I JUST WENT HOME AND DIDN'T STAY THERE,
IF I NO-TICED THAT THEY CHAN-GED THE TIME IN THE CLOCK,
THEN THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KILL MINEO-SAN.

SFX: KSSHH

EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T NOTICE THE CLOCK,
SOMEONE ELSE COULD HAVE COME HERE AND MET GEN-SAN. IT DOESN'T MEAN THEIR PLAN WOULD FAIL.
Kanji-san suddenly told us to cancel the investigation
The reason why
IT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S YOUR FAULT.
THEY USED YOU.

is because he feels guilty and terrified
THAT'S ...
ENOUGH
AND IF IT WASN'T YOU,
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE.
AND IF YOU DID NOTICE THE CLOCK, THEY WOULD HAVE DECIDED TO JUST DO IT AGAIN ON ANOTHER DAY.
THEY INVITED THEIR FORMER TEACHER BUT HE COULDN'T COME, SO THEY DECEIVED YOU INSTEAD.
that he didn't notice the murderer's plan.
I DON'T WANT THIS...
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW THAT PERSON WALK AROUND AT NIGHT.
IT'S PROBABLY SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING DO TO WITH ME OR THE SHIRAIS.
LET THE POLICE FIND THE CRIMINAL.

IF THIS REALLY STILL COULD HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT ME,
THEN I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT.
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING.
I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING.
Why is Kanji-san
in so much pain
that he had to tell a lie?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
IF WE GET OUR PAYMENT ANYWAY I DON'T MIND ENDING HERE.
D-DETEC-TIVE!

BUT IF WE LEAVE IT LIKE THIS,
KANJI-SAN
THAT'S ...
Umm...
ARE WE GONNA TIE HIM UP AND HIT HIM TO LET US INVESTIGATE?
OUR CLIENT DOESN'T WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT ANYMORE, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO
WILL FOREVER BE LYING.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, KANJI-SAN?
EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.

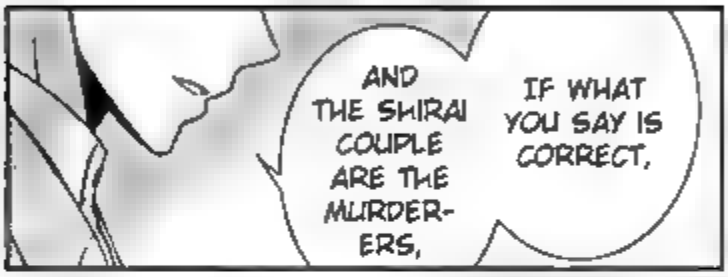
he lies down here..
The only way to move forward is to believe you're right, isn't it?
YOU'RE THE ONE,
WHO HAS TO DECIDE.
DO YOU THINK,
KANJI-SAN WON'T GO BACK LEAVING EVERYTHING LIKE THIS?
You're really going home?
And right after he said that,
IT'S
WHAT YOU JUST SAID.

SFX: ROL...
Me?
"I didn't see anything."
WHEN KANJI-SAN SAID HE DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING, I KNEW IT WAS A LIE.
BUT I ONLY THOUGHT, "HE MUST REALLY NOT WANT TO INVESTIGATE ANYMORE."
BUT YOU,
YOU KNEW THAT KANJI-SAN WAS ALSO TRYING TO DECEIVE HIMSELF.
MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED BECAUSE YOU CAN HEAR LIES,
BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN,
WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LIES THAT WE TELL OURSELVES.
IT'S PROBABLY WHY
YOU ARE SO HARD ON YOURSELF.
?
I couldn't really
I

understand what he said.
DON'T THINK THAT KANJI-SAN IS THE TYPE WHO TELLS LIES.
SO LET'S WAIT.
step
Why don't you sit on the bench?
It's too narrow to cross my legs
YEAH.

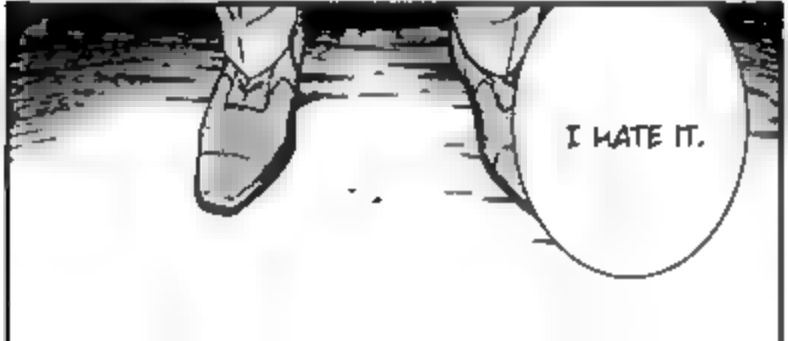
I'M SORRY, IWAI-KUN.

KANJI-SAN.


IF WHAT YOU SAY IS CORRECT,
AND THE SHIRAI COUPLE ARE THE MURDER-ERS,

I EVEN TOLD LILY
THAT I DIDN'T SEE AND DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING.

THEN IF I LEAVE HERE LIKE THIS,
I'D BE LYING TO EVERYONE


I HATE IT.

IS KNOWING SOMETHING AND LYING ABOUT IT!
BUT WHAT I HATE MORE THAN FALLING FOR THEIR DECEPTIONS,

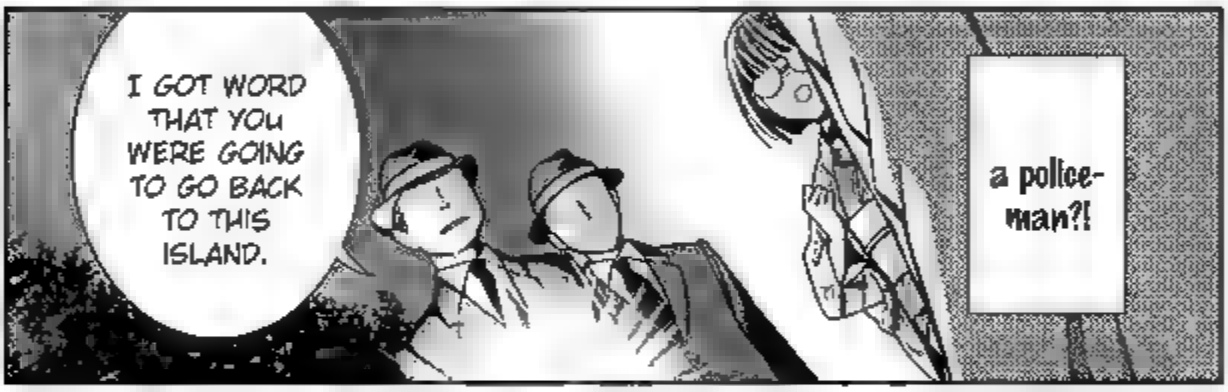
FIND THAT PERSON I SAW THAT NIGHT...?
WILL YOU HELP ME

OF COURSE!

IT CAME FROM THERE
THEN IT STOPPED HERE.
POINTED HIS LAMP BEHIND HIM.
THEN WENT THIS WAY
If there really was someone here
at around 8:30PM on the day of the crime,
IT HAD A WIDE GAIT,
SO IT WAS PROBABLY A MAN.
that would be proof that the Shirai couple are lying.
I GUESS THAT'S THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO WE'LL JUST CONCEAL WHAT WE KNOW...
CALLING THE POLICE WOULD BE THE FASTEST WAY, BUT
THERE ARE ONLY AROUND 20 HOUSES IN THIS ISLAND. SHOULD WE GO HOUSE BY HOUSE?
HOW DO WE LOOK FOR HIM?

SFX SHING
I'M NOT SURE JUST HOW FAR THEY'RE WILLING TO LISTEN TO US,
IF WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF.
SFX LIGHT
KIRINO
KANJI-KUN?
What?

A...
THE POLICE...


I GOT WORD THAT YOU WERE GOING TO GO BACK TO THIS ISLAND.
a police-man?!

THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME FOR YOU TO LISTEN TO US.
OH,
WILL YOU TELL US?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AND WHO ARE YOU?
WE'RE DETECTIVES.
SO THAT'S WHY WE'RE AGAIN ASKING YOU.

WE HAVE FOUND A WITNESS THAT CAN PROVE THE TESTIMONY
THAT YOU ADJUSTED THE CLOCK IN THIS HOUSE BY ONE HOUR ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.
OH,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN.
SHIRAI KOU-SAN.
IT'S AN OLD CLOCK. IT BREAKS DOWN SOMETIMES.
SO IT'S NOT REALLY PROOF THAT MY HUSBAND KILLED MY BROTHER-IN-LAW...
YOUR HUSBAND
ALREADY ADMITTED TO THE MURDER.

The Shirai couple was charged with the murder of Mineo-san.

The police listened to our statement.

ON THE SIGN. TOMA ISLAND ASSEMBLY HALL

WE ALSO WANTED TO TALK TO KIRINO-SAN AGAIN
TO HELP US CONFIRM THAT COUPLE'S ALIBI.
We were searching for ghosts at the start.
The strange circumstances surrounding Mineo-san's death by the rock face,
and the rumors around town about both brothers having financial troubles,
led the police to doubt the Shirai couple's testimony.
BUT KIRINO-KUN HERE,
GAVE THEM AN ALIBI WITH THIS INITIAL TESTIMONY
INSPECTOR!
I WAS ABOUT TO DO A BACKGROUND CHECK ON YOU.
SO I SUSPECTED THAT YOU WERE AN ACCOMPLICE

OKAY, LET'S CONTACT THE MAIN-LAND RIGHT AWAY.
YES.
WHAT I THINK,
THE RESULTS ARE HERE! TIME OF DEATH IS 8:30PM!
AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT KIRINO SAW THE MAN WALKING OUTSIDE IN HIS TEST-IMONY.
IS THAT THE WIFE, KOU, IS THE MASTERMIND OF ALL THIS.
LET'S START BY TALKING TO THE HUSBAND, GEN.
YES.
THAT COUPLE ..
REALLY WAS...
THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS...

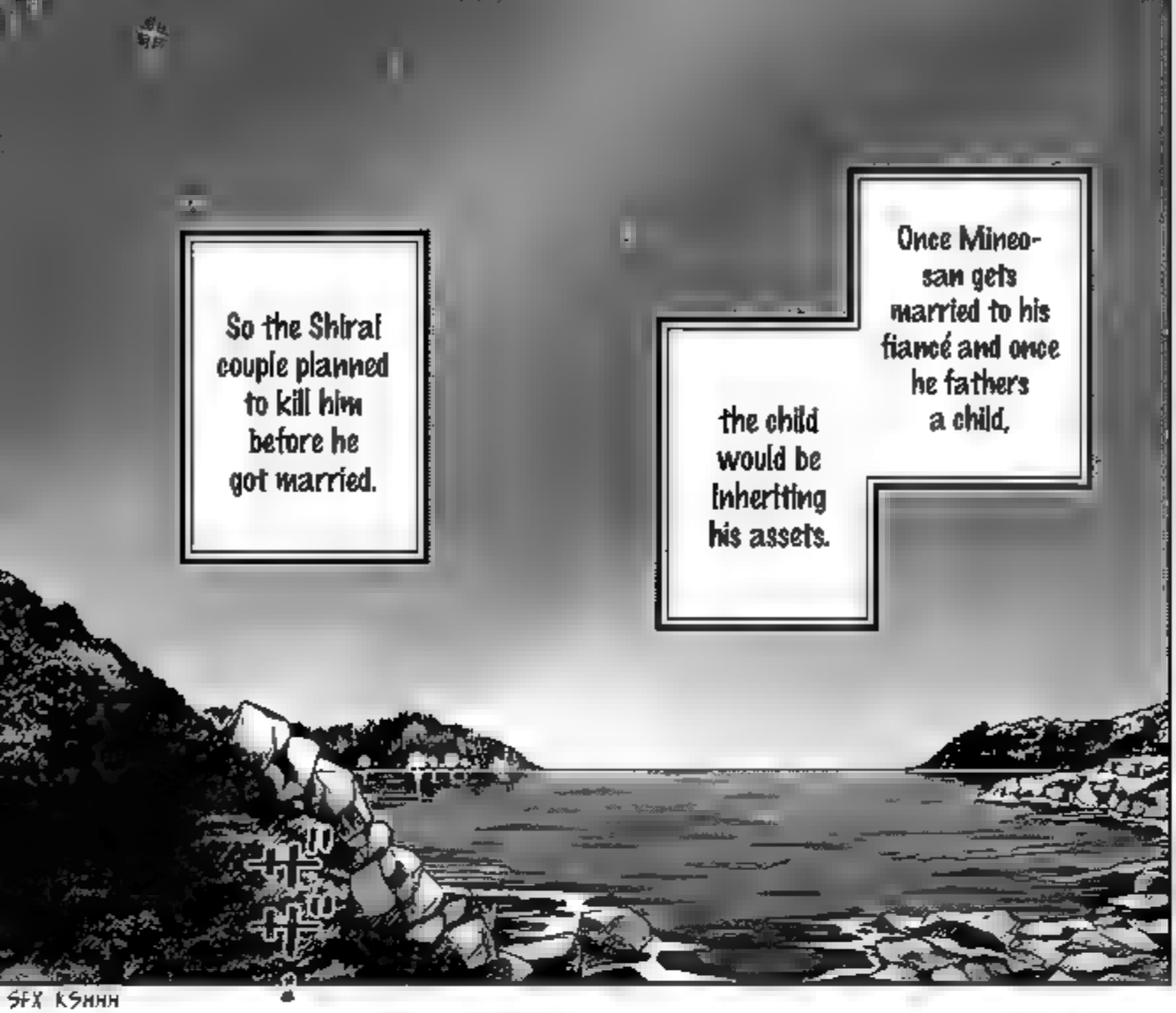
IS IT TRUE?
IT'S THEM.
HOW SCARY.
came to us
because he wanted to help the Shirais.
Kanji-
"It's just too sad to have him die without anyone knowing why."
"I want to help them."
YOU LOOKED LIKE A DULL-ARD.

THEN YOU NEEDLESSLY INVOLVED YOURSELF.
I THOUGHT I COULD USE YOU.
BE QUIET AND WALK!
THIS CASE
BUT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW THAT PERSON OUTSIDE THAT NIGHT,
AND YOU DECIDED TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH
EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T THERE
THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN SOMEONE ELSE TO USE IN THEIR CRIME.

WAS SOLVED BECAUSE OF YOU, KANJI-SAN.

YEAH.

THANK YOU.
The Shirai couple's motive in this case
was the built up assets of the victim, Mineo-san.


So the Shirai couple planned to kill him before he got married.
Once Mineo-san gets married to his fiancé and once he fathers a child,
the child would be inheriting his assets.
SFX KSHHH

4 Days Later
OH!

Money
Tatap
NEY...
MO-

HE'S LIKE THAT WHEN HE GETS MONEY. HE'S FINE.
Here you go.
IWAI-KUN, WHAT'S WRONG?!
Kanji-san came to complete his payment.

"It's over. I didn't see anything."
I'M SO THANK-FUL
I DIDN'T STOP THE INVESTIGATION AND GO HOME.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

"If we leave it like this, Kanji-san will forever be lying."
"Yeah."
IF I CONTINUED LYING ABOUT NOT SEEING THAT MAN THAT NIGHT,
THEN SURELY,
I MET LILY YESTERDAY.
"It must have been hard for you."
I WOULD KNOW EVERY-THING WAS A LIE
OR CRY IN FRONT OF LILY.
I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO EVEN LAUGH
THANK YOU, KANOKO-CHAN.
BUT THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU.

"Your powers could help a lot of people."
This power
I still don't understand
what the detective said back there.
"You knew"
"that Kanji-san was also trying to deceive himself."
Ehehe
not only reveals lies.
It can also help people.
SFX. COUGH 3X
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT KANJI-SAN?
DETECTIVE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ごほ
ごほがは
MONEY
!!
WHAM
THUMP

I'M SO SORRY!
PLEASE JUST RELAY THAT TO HIM WHEN HE'S BACK TO NORMAL
That scared me
HE LOOKS DRUNK.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GOT PAID.
YES!
BUT IWAI-KUN IS AMAZING, ISN'T HE?
Although he looks like that right now
YOU CAN'T REALLY TELL FROM HERE.
ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS LISTEN TO MY STORY,
AND HE WAS ABLE TO FIGURE EVERYTHING OUT.
IT'S LIKE

HE CAN SEE THROUGH EVERYTHING.
IT'S A BIT SCARY.

WHEN I TOLD THAT TO LILY,
SHE TOLD ME I WAS JUST TOO THICK,
AND THAT I COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM HIM.

CAUSE REALLY,
THE DETECTIVE IS AMA-ZING.
It's true.
The detective can easily solve incidents and tell what people are thinking.
Even without my power.
"I realized it when you were telling me about the incident."

KU
NO
KA
It's very
N~♪
KO
twirl
admirable.

I WANT TO PAY OUR BILLS AT KURATA.
Teehee
WHERE SHOULD WE GO? WHAT SHOULD WE USE?
WHAT SHOULD WE EAT?

You're really strict.

DON'T YOU HATE BEING AROUND ME?
Maybe the detective

No, I don't.
I feel like she can see through me.
It's creepy.
also had someone
It's not scary.
who said those kinds of words to him.
Extra? This isn't even enough to pay for everything
But if there's still some extra, I wanna eat ice cream!

Chapter 20/END

The 23 people involved in this work Miri-sama Mizumori Reki-sama

◆

Everyone in the Editorial Department

◆

Everyone who took part in producing and selling this book

◆

Family Friends

◆

Everyone who reads this

Thank you

November 2014 Miyako Ritsu

千万両